

The Festival of Lights: A Diwali Tale

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by retrieving information, making inferences, and justifying personal opinions regarding cultural narratives.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below in full sentences. Remember to use evidence from the text to support your answers.

Diwali, the vibrant Festival of Lights, is a time of great joy and reflection. Our friend Ellie the elephant loves learning about the history behind this special occasion. At its heart, Diwali celebrates the victory of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. To mark the festival, families clean their homes from top to bottom, preparing to welcome prosperity and happiness into their lives for the year ahead.

As the sun sets, the magic truly begins. People place rows of small, clay oil lamps, called diyas, along windowsills and doorsteps. These flickers of warm light transform the streets into a glowing path. Inside, families gather to share delicious homemade sweets and exchange gifts. The air fills with the scent of marigold flowers and incense. It is a time for community, where neighbours visit one another to share laughter and good wishes. For many, it is also a moment to reflect on the past and set hopeful intentions for the future. Whether it is the colourful patterns of rangoli on the floor or the sparkle of fireworks in the night sky, Diwali reminds us that kindness and light will always shine through.

Word bank: Diwali · festival · tradition · celebration · prosperity · symbolise · victory · community

1. According to the text, what does the festival of Diwali symbolise? (2 marks)

2. What do families do to their homes in preparation for the festival? (2 marks)

3. Why might people choose to place diyas along their windowsills and doorsteps? (2 marks)

4. How does the author suggest the community feels during Diwali? (2 marks)

5. Do you think festivals like Diwali are important for a community? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing a row of glowing diyas on a doorstep with a colourful rangoli pattern on the floor nearby.



Extension challenge: Research one other festival that involves light and write a short paragraph comparing its traditions to those of Diwali.